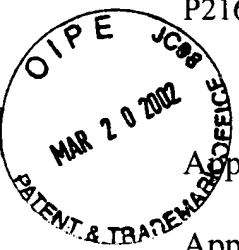


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Masao WATANABE et al.

Group Art Unit: 2182

Appln. No. : 09/926,797

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed : December 20, 2001

For : VESSEL CHARTER SUPPORTING SYSTEM, SERVER AND  
DATABASE THEREFOR, AND METHOD OF SUPPORTING VESSEL  
CHARTER

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

MAR 22 2002

Technology Center 2100

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98,, Applicants hereby call to the Examiner's attention an International Search Report issued in International PCT Application No. PCT/JP01/03567 (a copy of which is attached hereto) in which the following documents were cited:

An article by Nikkei Sangyo SHINBUN, entitled "Itoch Corp and Other Companies Regarding a Shipbuilding Internet Web Site Providing Information about the Market an Used Vessel Trade Site", which was published February 2, 2000, along with an English language translation;

Japanese Patent Publication No. HEI 11-039389 to KUNIO et al., entitled "Electronic Purchase System", which was published February 12, 1999, along with and English language

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abstract; and

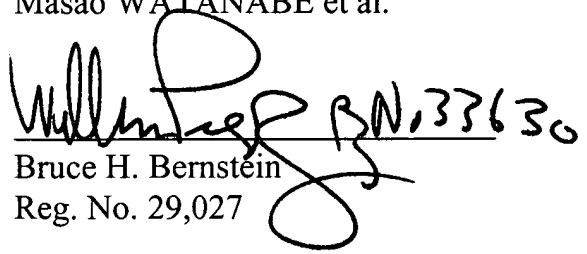
Japanese Patent Publication No. 2000-051213 to YOSHIAKI et al., entitled "Information Exchange System for Job Offering and Seeking", which was published February 25, 2000, along with and English language abstract.

The relevance and pertinent portions of each of these documents is as noted on the attached copy of the Search Report.

Copies of the above-noted documents (including the International Search Report, English language translation, and English language abstracts) are attached and are listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Masao WATANABE et al.

  
Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

March 20, 2002  
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[illegible]